

The Book of John: Brothers By The Same Mother

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After this: after the feeding of the 5K men plus women and children; the bread of life discourse; after the crowd who had originally wanted to force JC to be their king-provide for their daily needs and over throw their enemy namely Rome-yet upon him proclaiming himself as the “I am” then they turned sharply in their desires from wanting to crown him King to wanting to crown him over the head and bury his body somewhere.

JC told his disciples the bread of Life is his flesh and they must eat his flesh and drink his blood Jn 6:66. “many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him”. It was after this that Jesus went around Galilee purposely staying away from Judea for the Jews were wanting to take his life. After all that JC purposely stayed away.

Then in vs 2 we see it is time for yet another feast. The feeding of the 5K was Passover which takes place in March –April, now the Feast of Tabernacles this takes place around Sept- Oct. time period, about 6 months has passed in John’s account. What is the FOT you ask, and I pleased you did? It is a time when all natural born Israelites are to gather in Jerusalem and they are to live in booths / tents to remember the Exodus but of course this feast has a double purpose.

1st is to remember the events of the Exodus; where God delivered the children of Israel through Moses from the bondage of Egypt after 400 years. Remember God provided for his people on the journey to the land he would give them, a land not their own, a land that they did not deserve.

2nd The other reason was to remember to look forward to a time when the new exodus – a time when the Kingdom of God will be brought in with all its great blessings. We too one day will inherit and live in a land we do not deserve.

God’s plans are always multifaceted; this is a clear example of what he did before, pointing to what he will do in the future.

Vs. 3 introduction of JC brothers from the same mother, these men are likely wishing Jesus well and think they might even have a little advice for him for greater success. “3 Jesus’ brothers said to him, “You ought to leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the miracles you do.” You hang out here all the time with just the 12 many more would benefit from your miracles.

You ought to as the NIV has it or just Leave, or depart as KJV are things I cannot imagine saying to my LORD/master! Ya! I’ll go with: Isaiah 55:9 “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. I would not presume to give advice to the omniscient one.

Jesus’ brothers may have been very excited for him, that he can do such miracles, as healing sick people, feeding multitudes, turning water into wine. They have witnessed many of these things and they may very likely be showing confidence in their brother and wanting to help! But did they really get Him at all?

Vs 4 No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world.”

Where did these boys get the idea Jesus was trying to build a public ministry, was it when he told his mother that he wasn’t at the weddings in Cana. Jesus is not running for office-he’s running to, not from the cross. Do you realize he is not even old enough as far as his earthly years to run for president of US he does not plan of being around for a four year term to shift power or influence future events? He plans to have fulfilled his purpose before he would even be eligible for office, and then to bypass King of Israel, president of US and take his seat as supreme ruler of the universe and beyond.

Jesus’ current situation is humble but his destiny is grander than most can imagine, where his brothers vision for him is grander for the immediate, while their overall concept for him is meager. Their advice is to show off so other will flock to you and build support, and to stop doing things in secret.

Vs. 5 John describes this type of think as unsegregated, the thinking of someone unsaved. 5 For even his own brothers did not believe in him.

Now is John just jealous, or is there more, is there a difference in believing in Jesus as a miracle worker,

prophet, good teacher, etc... Believing in Jesus for eternal life means that we see the person who came not to serve in a public office but to serve by giving his life as a ransom for many. His brothers did not really know who JC was. Matthew 12:48-50 48 "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" 49 Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. 50 For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

John's following Jesus' same line of thinking when he writes:

John 6:29 Again, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." John and the other disciples are not jealous but maybe they know something the blood brothers don't yet know, Jesus was not just their older brother but he is the ancient of days, he's not just a miracle worker but he is the "I am" from within the burning bush. Jesus was not just the maker of wine at a wedding or producer of food in the desert, healer of the sick, He is the creator of all that is and the only savior of the world.

Vs.6 Therefore Jesus told them, "My time is not yet here; for you any time will do. 7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil. 8 You go to the festival. I am not going

Others may- I may not- Jesus' life was different than others, even his brothers. I have found that the closer one gets to Jesus that this principle carries over to you as well. Other may- I may not. Following Jesus will many times mean you cannot go where other go, you may not be able to do what some others do. The principle that says you can't go with God and stay where you are is similar to the principles that you can't always go where the crowd is.

I'm sure many of you may go out to dinner in Saturday evenings, and there is nothing wrong with that, but as a rule my family knows I won't except an invite or invite other over on a Saturday evening. We are available Sunday through Friday though. I have chosen to raise very early on Sundays, not to prepare my sermon- I am most thankful, for the most part you have afforded me the time much earlier in the week to complete that. There are things in any Christ followers life that will require some times that what may be permissible for other is not for you. Following Jesus has its perks, its benefits and it has its difference. If your destination is different, so will be your journey.

Believing Jesus is The Way and that he is going to lead you into real living; eternal life and abundant life, also means that you can't expect to get there on your own, no, you must be lead in. John 14:2-3 I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

True Belief is more than acknowledgement of information it's an adherence to instruction. If I am going to lead you to a location unknown to you, believing I know the way is not going to get you to the location, but following me, not letting me get out of your site is what will get you to my same destination. True belief is following.

Vs. 9 After he had said this, he stayed in Galilee. 10 However, after his brothers had left for the festival, he went also, not publicly, but in secret. The natural man receives not the things of the spirit of God!

If we don't know who Jesus really is, we don't really know which way we should head in life.

My hope today through this message is to move us from a peripheral view of JC is to a full on-in focus view of who JC really is. And then we will have a discussion to make, what will we do with JC, will we try to advise him, or will we choose to follow Him.

Mark 8: 34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.